

REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-14 and 21-32. The March 27, 2006 Office action also finally rejected claims 15-20 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Besson (GB Patent Publication 1,057,853) in view of Broersma (U.S. Patent No. 4,126,769). The applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

In a telephone interview with the examiner on May 22, 2006, the difference between paddle resonance and device frequency response was clarified. Resonance is defined as, “[t]he increase in amplitude of oscillation of an electric or mechanical system exposed to a periodic force whose frequency is equal or very close to the natural undamped frequency of the system,” (*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*).

Mechanical vibration is a function of resonance frequency of the paddle. As noted in the specification, “In order to maintain a given degree of vibration balancing over the frequency range of the hearing aid system, the lowest frequency of paddle resonance involving bending of the paddle must be at or above a frequency which stands in a certain ratio to the maximum frequency at which amplification is applied by the hearing aid system,” (specification ¶ 0026).

The cited combination of Besson and Broersma does not teach or suggest design for hearing aid system vibration, but rather is concerned with the transfer characteristic of sound energy between input to output of the device, that is, frequency response.

Because the combination of Besson and Broersma teaches frequency *response* of the device and not frequency *resonance* of the paddle, the combination does not teach or suggest every limitation of claim 15, and the rejection should be withdrawn. Because claim 15 is allowable, its dependent claims 16-20 are also allowable and their rejections should also be withdrawn.

In view of the above arguments, the applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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